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REW, R. H. *An Agricultural Faggot*. Pp. x, 187. Price, 5s. London: P. S. King and Son, 1913.

This collection of essays on quite various topics in agriculture is by no means devoid of interest, notwithstanding the fact that only three out of ten papers were written within the present century. As the writer observes in his introduction, the persistence of the problems of agriculture is exemplified by the continued timeliness of certain of his papers written twenty years ago—as the one on agriculture and free trade, and another on the townward migration of laborers.

An American must be impressed by certain contrasts with American methods and points of view. Thus it is argued, in a chapter on the middlemen in agriculture, that it would be more economical for farmers always to slaughter their cattle destined for the London market, instead of sending them alive. It appears that in the nineties the practice of shipping only the carcasses was becoming more frequent. We should probably conclude that, however superior English agriculture may be in many particulars to our own, we are more fortunate in the mechanism for disposing of products—at any rate as regards live stock. Thus it appears that the English farmer (unless there has been a change) has no means of knowing the prevalent price of cattle, because there are no quotations having the approximate correctness of the reports for our central markets, and it seems quite astonishing to find a discussion of the question whether the weight of cattle should be determined by the use of scales or estimated from measurements of the animal's back-bone and girth.

In the introduction it appears that after twenty-five years of discussion the old method survives.

Mr. Rew is assistant secretary to the Board of Agriculture. In addition to subjects just mentioned he discusses farming in olden times, English markets and fairs, the nation's food supply, British and English agriculture.

A. P. WINSTON.

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RUBINOW, I. M. *Social Insurance*. Pp. vii, 525. Price, \$3.00. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1913.

Summarizing the causes of poverty as "(1) absence of a worker in the family; (2) physical inability to perform labor, because of illness, accidental injury, chronic invalidity, or the physical deterioration accompanying old age, and finally, (3) inability to find employment" (p. 8), Dr. Rubinow examines the ways by which these factors may be met by insurance. He points out that the individualism, which insists that each person arrange for the carrying of this burden, is not only unusual, but practically impossible. That there is need for a comprehensive scheme is clearly demonstrated.

This study is in five parts—introduction, insurance against industrial accidents, insurance against sickness, insurance against old age, invalidity and death, and insurance against unemployment. The introduction contains the concept of social insurance, the development of the movement in Europe, and the need of such insurance in the United States. Under the last heading